

IN THE CLAIMS

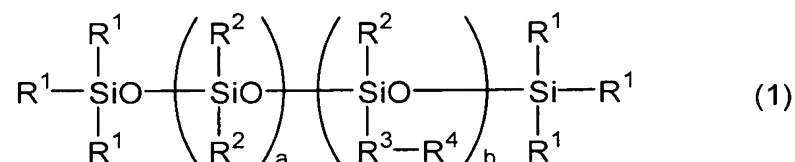
Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A hair detergent composition, which has a pH at 25°C of 4.5 or less when diluted to 20 times the weight with water, comprising the following components (a), (b), ~~[[and]]~~ (c) and (d):

(a) at least one anionic surfactant in an amount of 0.5 to 60 wt%,

(b) at least one carboxylic acid in an amount of 0.05 to 10 wt%, and selected from the group consisting of hydroxymonocarboxylic acids, dicarboxylic acids and hydroxydicarboxylic acids, a salt thereof, and mixtures thereof, ~~[[and]]~~

(c) at least one silicone derivative in an amount of ~~[[of]]~~ 0.05 to 4 wt%, and represented by the following average formula (1):

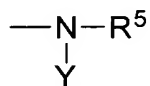


wherein, R¹ each independently represents a monovalent hydrocarbon group, a hydroxy group or an alkoxy group,

R² each independently represents a monovalent hydrocarbon group,

R³ each independently represents a divalent C₁₋₁₀ hydrocarbon group,

R⁴ each independently represents a group represented by the following formula (3):



(3)

wherein, Y each independently represents a hydrogen atom or a group: -CH₂CH(OH)-R³-OH (R³ has the same meaning as described above), R⁵ each independently represents a hydrogen

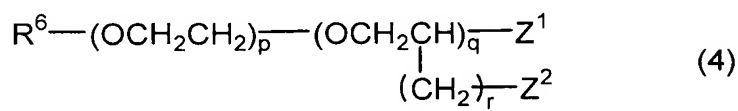
atom or a group $-R^3NY_2$ (Y and R^3 have the same meanings as described above), with the proviso that all the Ys do not represent a hydrogen atom simultaneously,

a stands for a number of from 25 to 1,000,

b stands for a number of from 1 to $[[200.]]$ 200, and

(d) at least one organic solvent selected from the group consisting of (d1), (d2), (d3), (d4), (d5), and mixtures thereof:

(d1) compounds represented by formula (4):



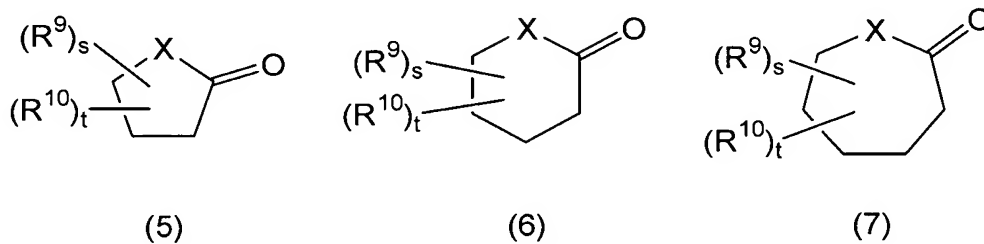
wherein, R^6 represents a group R^7 -Ph- R^8 (R^7 : a hydrogen atom, a methyl group or a methoxy group, R^8 : a bond, or a saturated or unsaturated divalent C_{1-3} hydrocarbon group, Ph: a paraphenylene group), Z^1 and Z^2 each represents a hydrogen atom or a hydroxy group, and p, q and r each stands for an integer of from 0 to 5, with the proviso that when $p=q=0$, Z^1 does not represent a hydrogen atom and R^8 does not represent a bond,

(d2) N-alkylpyrrolidones having a C_{1-18} alkyl group bonded to the nitrogen atom,

(d3) alkylene carbonates having 1 to 4 carbon atoms,

(d4) polypropylene glycols having a molecular weight of from 200 to 5,000, and

(d5) lactones or cyclic ketones represented by the following formula (5), (6) or (7):



wherein, X represents a methylene group or an oxygen atom, R^9 and R^{10} represent substituents, respectively, which are different from each other, and s and t each stands for a number of 0 or 1.

Claims 2-3 (Canceled).

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): The hair detergent composition of Claim 1, wherein the anionic surfactant as Component (a) is selected from the group consisting of sulfate-, sulfonate-, carboxylate-surfactants, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The hair detergent composition of Claim 1, wherein the ~~hydroxymonocarboxylic~~ hydroxymonocarboxylic acid as Component (b) is selected from the group consisting of glycolic acid, lactic acid, hydroxyacrylic acid, oxybutyric acid, glyceric acid, and mixtures thereof, wherein the dicarboxylic acid as Component (b) is selected from the group consisting of malonic acid, succinic acid, glutaric acid, adipic acid, maleic acid, fumaric acid, phthalic acid, oxalic acid, and mixtures thereof, and wherein the hydroxydicarboxylic acid as Component (b) is selected from the group consisting of malic acid, tartaric acid, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 6 (Canceled).

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The hair detergent composition of Claim ~~[[2]]~~ 1, wherein (d1) is selected from the group consisting of ~~ethanol, 1-propanol, 2-propanol, butanol, isobutanol, ethylene glycol, propylene glycol, 1,3-butanediol, benzyl alcohol, cinnamyl alcohol, phenethyl alcohol, p-anisyl alcohol, p-methylbenzyl alcohol, phenoxyethanol, 2-benzyloxyethanol, methylcarbitol, ethyl carbitol, propyl carbitol, butyl carbitol, triethylene glycol monoethyl ether, triethylene glycol monobutyl ether, glycerin, and~~ mixtures thereof, (d2) is selected from the group consisting of N-methylpyrrolidone, N-

octylpyrrolidone, N-laurylpyrrolidone, and mixtures thereof, (d3) is selected from the group consisting of ethylene carbonate, propylene carbonate, and mixtures thereof, (d4) is a ~~propylene~~ polypropylene glycol having a molecular weight of from 200 to ~~10,000~~ 1,000, and (d5) is selected from the group consisting of γ -butyrolactone, γ -caprolactone, γ -valerolactone, δ -valerolactone, δ -caprolactone, δ -heptanolactone, ~~γ -butyrolactone, γ -caprolactone,~~ cyclopentanone, cyclohexanone, cycloheptanone, 4-methylcycloheptanone and mixtures thereof.

Claim 8 (Canceled).

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): The hair detergent composition of Claim 1, wherein Component (a) is present in an amount of 8 to 20 wt%, Component (b) is present in an amount of 0.5 to 2 wt%, and Component (c) is present in an amount of 0.1 to 1.5 wt%.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): The hair detergent composition of Claim 1, wherein Component (a) is represented by the following formula (a1) or (a2):



wherein R represents a C₁₀₋₁₈ alkyl or alkenyl group, R' represents a C₁₀₋₁₈ alkyl group, M represents an alkali metal, alkaline earth metal, ammonium, alkanolamine or basic amino acid, and n stands for a number of from 1 to 5 on weight average.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): The hair detergent composition of Claim 1, wherein Component (b) comprises at least one of lactic acid, glycolic acid, maleic acid, and malic acid.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The hair detergent composition of Claim [[2]] 1, wherein Component (d) comprises at least one of benzyl alcohol, benzyloxyethanol, and propylene carbonate ~~and propylene glycol~~.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): The hair detergent composition of Claim [[2]] 1, wherein Component (d) is present in an amount of from 0.01 to 50 wt%.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): The hair detergent composition of Claim [[2]] 1, wherein Component (d) is present in an amount of from 0.5 to 10 wt%.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): The hair detergent composition of Claim 1, wherein said pH is from 3 to 3.9.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): The hair detergent composition of Claim 1, further comprising at least one conditioning component, which comprises at least one of cationic polymers, cationic surfactants, silicones other than component (c), and oils.

Claim 17 (Canceled).

Claim 18 (Previously Presented): The hair detergent composition of Claim 16, wherein the conditioning component is present in an amount of 0.05 to 10 wt%.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): The hair detergent composition of Claim 16, wherein the conditioning component is present in an amount of 0.1 to 2 wt%.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): A method comprising washing hair with the hair detergent composition of Claim 1.